

REMARKS

Claims 81-114 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-80 are canceled, and claims 81-114 are added. Reconsideration of the rejection based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, is respectfully solicited.

Support for the newly added claims may be found, for example, in the specification on pp. 36-39, pp. 47-48, pp. 54-60, and 60-71. Each of the newly added independent claims recites the feature of forming the banks with materials having varying degrees of "affinity" or "non-affinity" for a fluid in the partitioned areas. "Affinity" is defined on page 47 of the specification in line 16 as a hydrophilic property when the liquid material contains water with the angle of contact set at about 20° or lower, for example, and non-affinity with the angle of contact set at about 50° or higher, for example.

In particular, claims 81, 92, 108, and 110 recite the patentable feature "banks, each of which includes an organic substance ...wherein said banks exhibit non-affinity for the fluid, said non-affinity being greater than that of said partitioned areas" (claims 81, 92, 108, 110). Claims 106 and 112 recite "banks comprising a first layer and a second layer...wherein a surface of said first layer exhibits affinity for the fluid which is greater than that of said second layer".

Shirasaki (JP Patent No. 11-040354) discloses an organic electroluminescent element divided into small regions to form a luminescent part 6, and a non-luminescent partition part 7 having a barrier layer 1e formed surrounding areas of the luminescent part 6 (See Abstract). Nagayama (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,187) discloses a display panel using organic electroluminescent material, comprising a substrate and a plurality of electrically insulating partition wall groups (See col. 2, lines 50-60). However, neither the barrier layers of Shirasaki nor the wall groups of Nagayama are disclosed to have "non-affinity for a fluid, said non-affinity being greater than that of said partitioned areas."

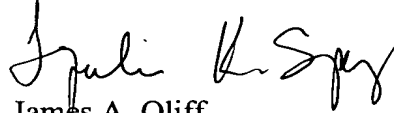
Tabayashi (JP Patent No. 06-347637) does disclose that a "partition contains a fluorine-based water-repellent and oil-repellent agent," (See Abstract.) However, Tabayashi does not disclose or suggest that the partition contains an organic substance, as recited in claims 81, 92, 108 and 110, or that the banks comprise a first layer and a second layer, "wherein a surface of the first layer exhibits affinity for the fluid which is greater than that of said second layer," as recited in claims 106 and 112. Therefore, this feature of forming the bank of organic materials having varying degrees of affinity or non-affinity for the fluid is not found in any of the cited references, Shirasaki, Nagayama or Tabayashi.

Therefore, the features recited in each of independent claims 81, 92, 106, 108, 110 and 112 are not found in any of the cited references. Claims 82-91 depend from claim 81; claims 93-105 depend from claim 92; claim 107 depends from claim 106; claim 109 depends from claim 108; claim 111 depends from claim 110; and claims 113-114 depend from claim 112. Therefore, claims 81-114 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 81-114 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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